

REMARKS

Proposed amendments have been made to claims 1 and 8. Claim 7 has been cancelled. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the final rejection are respectfully requested.

A Request for Permission to Amend and Add Drawings was previously filed July 10, 2002. Apparently, this filing was lost and therefore a duplicate copy is attached herewith.

Applicants' counsel wishes to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the personal interview on April 11, 2003. The following records the substance of the interview.

During the interview, Applicants discussed the characteristics and structure of the fixing holder recited in claim 1. To clarify the structural limitations included in the body of the claim, Applicants propose amending claim 1 as noted herein.

Regarding claim 8, Applicants propose amending this claim to make clear that the subcombination recited therein is the same as the subcombination in claim 1. Hence, the restriction requirement is submitted to be moot as discussed during the interview.

In the Office Action, the claims were rejected based on INGAGLIO. As discussed during the interview, however, Applicants' invention recites a fixing holder having certain structural limitations not found in INGAGLIO. As pointed out, INGAGLIO discloses a tool (not a fixing holder) for securing an electric cable to a terminal. For the reasons discussed at the interview and set forth in Applicants' prior reply, it is respectfully submitted that both independent claims

1 and 8 define over INGAGLIO. Further, claims 2-6 and 9-12 depend therefrom and are also submitted to be patentable.

Lastly, Applicants have cancelled non-elected claim 7 directed toward the method of fixing the electric component to the printed circuit board.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit only allowable claims remain in the application. Withdrawal of the final rejection and allowance of these claims are respectfully requested.

Summarizing, Applicants have made an important contribution to the art to which the present subject matter pertains, for which no counterpart is shown in any of the art or combination of same. The invention is fully set forth and carefully delimited in all claims in this case. Under the patent statute, Applicants should not be deprived of the protection to which they are entitled for this contribution. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that favorable reconsideration and an early notice of allowance be provided for all remaining claims.

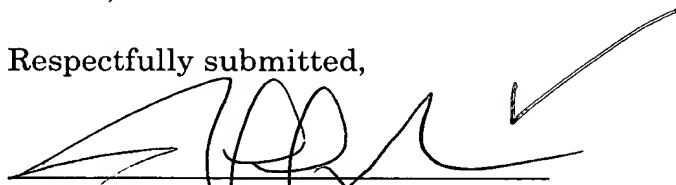
If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and

please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit
Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #3064NG/48834).

April 11, 2003

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Please amend claims 1 and 8 as follows:

1. (Twice amended) currently amended) A fixing holder for fixing an electronic component having wire-shaped leg portions to a printed circuit board, comprising:

said holder being an almost cylindrical-shaped holder adapted to hold the electronic component, the holder being hollow in a longitudinal direction and having top and bottom openings such that the electronic component is capable of protruding from the top opening and the wire-shaped leg portions are capable of passing through and protruding from the bottom opening,

said fixing holder further comprising:

a holder main body portion adapted to hold a main body portion of the electronic component; and

a base portion extending from said holder main body portion, wherein one surface of said base portion on a forward side is opened to form a side opening, at least a portion of a periphery of the forward side opening being configured to form a flat surface, and

a side surface of said holder main body portion on a side where the forward side opening is formed includes a projection protruding forward and adapted to engage with the printed circuit board.

8. (Amended) An assembly, comprising:

a printed circuit board;

an electronic component having wire-shaped leg portions;

a fixing holding for fixing the electronic component having the wire-shaped leg portions to the printed circuit board, the holder having a hollow substantially cylindrical shape in a longitudinal direction with top and bottom openings such that the electric component is arranged in an area of the top opening and the wire-shaped leg portions protrude from the bottom opening;

wherein said fixing holder further comprises:

[a holder main body portion adapted to hold a main body portion of the electric component;

a base portion extending from the holder main body portion toward the bottom opening, wherein one surface of the base portion on a lateral side is opened to form a lateral side opening, at least a portion of a periphery of the lateral side opening forming a flat surface; and

wherein the holder main body portion includes a projection on a side where the lateral side opening is formed in the base portion.]

a holder main body portion adapted to hold a main body portion of the electronic component; and

a base portion extending from said holder main body portion, wherein one surface of said base portion on a forward side is opened to form a side opening, at least a portion of a periphery of the forward side opening being configured to form a flat surface, and

a side surface of said holder main body portion on a side where the forward side opening is formed includes a projection protruding forward and adapted to engage with the printed circuit board.